SWAMI RAMANAND TEERTH MARATHWADA UNIVERSITY, NANDED

A Doctoral Synopsis

A Study of Communication Techniques Used in Amish Tripathi's Shiva Trilogy

Submitted for

Registration of Ph.D.Degree in English

Under the Faculty of Arts

Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded

Researcher

Mr. Shiveshwar Manmathappa Muchate

Email Id: smmuchatel23@gmail.com

Contact No: 7387542773

Research Supervisor

Dr. Raghunath D.Kamble

Head,Dept, of English,

Maharashtra Mahavidhyalaya, Nilanga

Dist. Latur (M.S)413522

Research Center

P.G. Department and Research Center in English,

Dayanand College of Arts, Latur.

Dist. Latur (M.S)-41 3 512.

Jan. 2015

A Study of Communication Techniques Used in Amish Tripathi's Shiva Trilogy

1. Introduction :

The proposed research concentrates on the critical study of Amish Tripathi on communication techniques such as myth, fantasy, language, symbolism, suspense technique. Through these techniques he wanted to prove that when evil reaches epic proportions and when all seems lost, a hero will emerge and destroy the enemy. Amish Tripathi perhaps is the first person who tried to portray Lord Shiva, the God of Gods in different manner. He is presented not as a God but a man of flesh and blood, who initially was a warrior, a Tibetan Immigrant but later was invited by the people of Meluha to save their country from their enemies. Amish Tripathi's novels in series are 1) *The Immortals of Meluha* (2010) 2) *The Secret of the Nagas* (2011) 3) *The Oath of Vayuputras* (2013)

Amish Tripathi is a rising star in the field of Indian writing in English. He is the author of three best-selling novel series. All the three novels of Amish Tripathi are religious and mythological. They contain different communicative techniques which are helpful to get target interpretation of the author. Through his novels he presents the life of Lord Shiva as a human being of flesh and blood. Later on, he becomes the saviour of Meluha, Shiva, The Mahadev, God of Gods, destoyer of evil, passionate lover, fierce warrior, consummate dancer, charismatic leader. All powerful yet incorrupt over the centuries, no foreigner who came to our land- conqueror, merchant, scholar, ruler, traveller believed that such a great man could possibly have existed in reality. They assumed that he must have a mythical God, whose existence was possible only in the realms of human imagination.

Lord Shiva was not a figment of a rich imagination, but a person of flesh and blood. A man who rose to become god like because of his karma. This is the premise of the Shiva Trilogy, which interprets the rich mythological heritage of

ancient India, blending fiction with historical fact incorporating various communication techniques. Shiva Trilogy is therefore a tribute to Lord Shiva and the lesson that he is liked by the people. A lesson which is lost in the depths of time and ignorance. A lesson, that all can rise to be better people. A lesson that there exists 'a potential god in every single human being.

The present doctoral research concentrates on the critical study of the three novels of Amish Tripathi and the use of communication techniques. The first novel selected for the study is *The Immortals of Meluha* published in February 2010 which can be treated as the perfect example encompassing many elements of communication techniques such as myth, fantasy, language, symbolism and suspense technique. In this work myth plays a very vital role as it is the story of Lord Shiva who initially was not God itself but a human being. He comes in the land of Meluha, a land of pure life, and becomes a savior of its people. Everybody believes that he is the only person who can save the land from their enemy. Tripathi believes that myths are nothing but jumbled memories of true past. A past buried under mounds of earth and ignorance. There is also a myth of Neelkanth in this text. Shiva, the chief of Guna tribe consumes the Somras, his throat turns blue making him the Neelkanth of the Meluhen legend, which speaks of the appearance of Neelkanth as a destroyer of evil. Fantasy is also one of the communication techniques used in this novel. The author has created purely a fantasy fiction out of mythical stories. The author has used various symbols such as Somras, blue throat, vikrama etc. in this work. The technique of suspense is also used by author in order to capture the readers' attention on its content. The book *The Immortals of Meluha* captures the attention of the readers and avoids them to divert from reading the book. Its events are skillfully channelized by keeping them into a particular flow.

The second novel selected for study is *The Secret of Nagas*, published in August 2011. The second book also uses the same communication techniques as

the first book of *Shiva Trilogy*. Myth plays very important role in this book also. Amish Tripathi being a voracious reader of mythology and history, used many mythological characters, places, things as the first part of the book. It includes the same mythological characters like Shiva, Sati, Nandi, Veerbhadra, Brihaspati, Daksha, Bhagirath, Kartik. Kali, Ganesh etc. Ayodhya, Kashi, Branga, Pachavati, Dandak forest are well-known mythological places where Indian myths have supposed to happen in Indian mythology. He uses many myths like unexpected death of Brahaspati, a lion attack on the Branga villagers, defence by Sati, defeat in battle against lions. There is also a myth of Kali and Ganesh.

The author uses language as one of the communication techniques in the second book of Shiva Trilogy. The language makes the book to read, ties the reader in the process. It has lost the flair of the first part because of weak sentences, unnecessary left dangling, rash exclamations, italics etc. It would have been effective to us rather loved normal people in using normal language, who would talk, scream, remain silent or whatever, instead of using words like plethora, exponentially etc. which makes the reader labour through the reading. But the writer seems to have a grip of the language. There are some weak dialogues and grammatical errors which are scattered throughout the book, especially the inclusion of 'glaringly out of place world' words thus having too many anachronism in the book. The author uses portrays the incidents in such a skillful way that the reader is excited to know every event of the book which is interesting suspense technique used by him in this book. The author uses various symbols to bring out aesthetic qualities in the book.

The Oach of Vayuputras (2013). the third part of Shiva Trilogy, is selected for present doctoral research. It is a story about an imaginary land Meluha and its inhabitants are saved by Shiva. Shiva discovers that Somras is the true evil in *The Oath of Vayuputras.* Shiva then declares a holy war on those who seek to continue to use it, mainly the emperors Daksha and Dilipa. The story concludes with

Shiva and his associates being popularized as Gods for their deeds and accompanishment. The author uses same communication techniques such as myth, fantasy, language, symbolism and suspense technique in this book also.

To sum up the novels of Amish Tripathi exhibit an unconventional way of plot construction, characterization, thematic aspects and craftman ship. For the better understanding of communication techniques employed by Amish Tripathi in his novels a detailed analysis of the novels is needed. Hence the attempt will be made to analyze critically the novels while taking into account the communication techniques used by author.

2. Objectives of the study:

1. To study the communication technique of myth in Amish Tripathi's *Shiva Trilogy.*
2. To analyze the device of fantasy and its effects employed by the author.
3. To scrutinize the use of language in the novels series.
4. To analyze symbolism in Amish Tripathi's novels.
5. To study the suspense technique employed by the author throughout his novels.
6. To study humanistic values critically involved in his novels.
7. To achieve an understanding of the process of reader's response to the novels of Amish Tripathi.
8. To point out the significance and relevance of AmishTripathi's novels in the present era.

3. Scope of the study :

There is a lot of scope and importance regarding Amish Tripathi's Shiva frilogy because the author is a new rising star in Indian writing in English. There are many authors who are writing about mythological perspective like Shashi

Tharoor, Ashok Banker, Ashwin Sanghi, Girish Kamad, Amish Tripathi and so on.

The research work is focused on Shiva Trilogy which is a group of three novels with many communication techniques such as myth, fantasy, language, symbolism and suspense technique. There is severe need to analyze these techniques which are the part and parcel of it.

The Immortals of Meluha, The Secret of the Nagas and Oath of *Vayuputras* are the novels by Amish Tripathi which use various communication techniques and there is need to find them.

4. Hypothesis :

- Amish Tripathi uses myth as a vehicle to convey a philosophical thesis into an adventurous story.
- Tripathi uses the element of fantasy and imagination to execute it in a thrilling way.
- He writes the novel series in a very simple language but at the same time borrows many words from Indian epics of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata as they are.
- Shiva Trilogy initiates readers to think that everybody should follow social ethics and morals to run any civilization satisfactorily.
- Shiva Trilogy explores the philosophy about the theory of evil and destruction of it in his novels.

5. Tentative chapter scheme :

The research tentatively proposes to the chapter scheme given below.

Chapter **I** : **Introduction**

Chapter **II** : **Myth as a Communication Technique in Shiva Trilogy**

Chapter **III** : **Fantasy as a Communication Technique in Shiva Trilogy.**

Chapter IV	**Language as a Communication Technique in Shiva Trilogy**
Chapter V	**Symbolism as a Communication Technique in Shiva Trilogy.**
Chapter VI	**Suspense Technique as a Communication Technique in Shiva Trilogy**
Chapter VII	**Conclusion**

The first chapter proposes to make an introductory assessment of the communication technique in Amish Tripathi's *Shiva Trilogy.* This chapter also makes the an assessment of Amish Tripathi as writer. This chapter will contain the study about mythical concepts and characters which are employed by author. Amish Tripathi is the author of three best-selling novels. This chapter also proposes to make a critical assessment of Amish Tripathi's novels.

The second chapter would study about mythology, its concept characters, gods, goddesses, demons etc. This chapter concentrates on the myth as an important vehicle to convey a philosophical thesis and it transforms into an adventurous story'. In this chapter the focus would be to bring all mythological aspects of *Shiva Trilogy.* The author has implemented mythology to suit to the present age. Shiva, Tibetan immigrant, by his good karma becomes a God. All the mythological characters, places, events will be properly portrayed in this chapter. The journey of Shiva throughout his novels will be analytically studied. The critical responses about mythology will be taken into consideration in this chapter.

The third chapter proposes to make an assessment of the technique of fantasy in *Shiva Trilogy.* The author has used many mythological characters places, events but there are some fantasies through which he utilized his imagination to flow the story in an interesting way. The use of technique of fantasy makes the story an adventurous story. Amish Tripathi has created purely a fantasy fiction out of the mythical stories. *Shiva Trilogy* has revived the rich

tradition of Indian heroic age. The trilogy is the celebration of an epic hero Shiva and his journey. Through the author's fantasy each book in the trilogy captures the different elements of fantasy to focus on the journey of Shiva. The trilogy is a mythical fantasy based on the imagination of the mythical god Shiva in a human form. In this chapter the focus will be on element of fantasy through which the author wanted to present Shiva as a human being who walked on this earth and eventually rising into the god.

The fourth chapter will analyse the technique of language in the novel series by Amish Tripathi. The author uses many elements of language in his works such as simplification, anachronism, dramatization, dialogues, borrowing the terms from Indian epics like the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, use of incorrect grammatical sentences, use of Sanskrit works from Indian mythology like Shiv puran, Kathapuran. This Chapter will delineate the study critically how he has presented the story in a skillful way. The proposed study would find out the different narrative techniques, use of archetypes in his books.

The Fifth chapter would study critically the technique of symbolism in his novel series. Amish Tripathi has employed several symbols and images from Indian mythology to execute the story before readers in effective way. The author uses symbols like Somras, blue throat, Vikarma, concept of Neelkanth etc. to make the story interesting and unforgetful. The focus of study in this chapter would be symbolic representation of mythical stories of Amish Tripathi. Here, symbolism plays very vital role in executing the story of Shiva. It also will focus on symbols of evil, denouncement of Kali and Ganesh, the first son of Sati, deformity of Kali and Ganesh. There are some characters involved throughout novels who are symbolic representation of one or the other thing like Parveteshwar and Ayurvati. The chapter proposes to study the symbols and what they represent in these books.

The sixth chapter proposes to study about the suspense technique of Shiva Trilogy. The author has succeeded to keep the curiosity of the reader from first to last event concerned with Shiva. The author has divided chapters in such skillful way that the readers cannot feel to keep the books unread. The readers feel to read all the three stories continuously to understand the meaning of books. The stories of *Shiva Trilogy* are so gripping and well-paced. The novels creates anticipation in the readers' mind and compels them to read with great curiosity till the end. It has a philosophy as its underlying theme but it is racy enough to give its readers the adventure of a lifetime. The chapter proposes study of the suspense technique resulting in Amish Tripathi as best seller author in Indian publishing.

The seventh chapter ' Conclusion' will bring into light all the key findings, analysis and evolution of the communication techniques in Amish Tripathi's *Shiva Trilogy*. The chapter will also provide a critical analysis of the relevance and significance of communication techniques in modern context. This chapter will propose on the research conclusions of *Shiva Trilogy*. It will be evaluated aesthetically as well as socially in the present context.

6. Relevance of the study to society:

Amish Tripathi is an Indian author who writes mainly on Indian mythology. He is a voracious reader of world mythology and history. He is the author of three mythological novels together called the *Shiva Trilogy'.* These novels are called so because the author has written these novels on Lord Shiva. The author at first wanted to write a philosophical thesis on the theory of evil and destruction of it. So who could be better hero of that story other than the destroyer of evil himself? According to the author Indian myths are still alive even today. Indian people modernize and retell myths every now and then and these are always concerned with the Indian society in the modern age too. Myths are something which teach us something more important for present society. *Shiva Trilogy* comes in this

tradition. It discuses many issues like a hierarchy system based on the basis of birth which is purely evil, behavior of man towards women in the patriarchal system. If such kind of issues are taught through philosophy, people will get bored and tiresome so it has to come across as a part of an adventure. For better understanding of these novels, They are to be analyzed through various communication techniques which are used by the author, Amish Tripathi.

7. Research Methodology :

The research will be based on the critical analysis of Amish Tripathi's three novels, the comments on his novels by his colleagues, friends and critics. The M.L.A system of research methodology will be followed for the research work. Since the proposed work needs no field work, the texts of *Shiva Trilogy',* the reference books, journals and articles etc. will be referred. Discussion with eminent scholars will be done for reaching the conclusion.

8. Probable date of completion of work :

The present research is proposed to be completed within the time limit as stipulated by Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University.Nanded.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources :

1. Tripathi, Amish. *The Immortals Meluha.* New Delhi : Westland Ltd. 2010
2. Tripathi, Amish, *The Secret of the Nagas* , New Delhi : Westland Ltd. 2012.
3. Tripathi, Amish. *The Oath of the Vayuputras* . New Delhi : Westland Ltd. 2013.

Secondary Sources :

1. Realising your dream : The true story of Shiva Trilogy, Forbes India, 14 June 2013.

2. Modernising the Indian Myth : Amish Tripathi's Shiva Trilogy, Chennai, Vels University.
3. Bhawani Namrata : Myth and March : Talk with Amish Tripathi, The times of India,2011
4. Choudhari, Dibyajyoti (11 August 2012) "Shiva as a Tibetan Hero" The Times of India, 2012.
5. Khan. Ashwin, (3 March 2013) small talk with Amish Tripathi : " The Times of India' 2013.
6. Missmalini, Interview with Amish Tripathi, Best selling author of The Shiva Trilogy' 2012.
7. Shiva in a New Light - An Interview with Amish Tripathi, 2011.
8. The Meluhan taskmekar, small talk with Amish Tripathi, 2013.
9. R.Krishna, Book Review ' The Oath of the Vayuputras, 2013.
10. The Myth Makers : Indian Express feature on mythology fiction genre, 2013.

WEBLIOGRAPHY :

1. http://www.shivatrilogv .com
2. http://www.authoramish. com
3. ashwin.khan@timesgroup.com

Place : Nanded.

Date :20/01/2015.

Research Supervisor **Researcher**

(Dr. Raghunath D. Kamble) **Mr. Shiveshwar Manmathappa Muchate**